

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 25-27, 31 and 32. Please cancel previously presented claims 30 and 33, and add new claims 34-39. Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A method of detecting images and text in a master copy, the method comprising:

choosing a first background color from the master copy, wherein the master copy includes an image portion, a text portion, and an empty portion containing neither an image nor text;

condensing the master copy based at least in part on the first background color by omitting the empty portion to create a condensed copy of the master copy, the condensed copy containing only the image portion and the text portion;

transversely and vertically dividing the entirety of the condensed copy into a plurality of first areas;

for each of the first areas—

choosing a second background color from the first area;

determining whether the first area includes the image portion or the text portion based at least in part on the second background color;

if the first area includes the image portion, marking the first area as an image area;

if the first area includes the text portion, marking the first area as a text area; and

if the first area cannot be identified as an image area or a text area, then—
replacing the first background color with the second background color;

condensing the first area based at least in part on the second background color;
transversely and vertically dividing the first area into a plurality of second areas;
for each of the second areas—
determining whether the second area includes the image portion or the text portion based at least in part on the second background color;
if the second area includes an image portion, marking the second area as an image area; and
if the second area includes a text portion, marking the second area as a text area;
processing the image areas with halftone processing;
processing the text areas with line art processing; and
outputting the processed images and processed text as a whole.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the halftone processing comprises a dithering process.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the dithering process comprises a sampling mode dithering.

8-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying image areas and text areas in a document, the method comprising:
choosing a document background color based on the whole document;

creating a condensed document from the document by omitting areas that contain neither image nor text based at least in part on the chosen document background color;
dividing the condensed document into a plurality of individual areas;
for each of the ~~divided~~-individual areas,
choosing an area background color based on the individual ~~areas~~area;
and
identifying the individual ~~areas~~-area as containing image or text based at least in part on the chosen area background color;
processing areas identified as containing images with halftone processing; and
processing areas identified as containing text with line art processing.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein dividing the condensed document includes dividing the condensed document ~~transeversely~~ transversely and vertically into a plurality of individual areas, and the method further includes:

if one of the individual areas cannot be identified as containing image or text,
omitting sub-areas in the individual area that contain neither image nor text based at least in part on the chosen area background color to create a condensed area;
dividing the condensed area into a plurality of individual sub-areas; and
for each of the ~~divided~~-individual sub-areas,
choosing a sub-area background color based on the individual ~~sub-areassub-area~~, and
identifying the individual ~~sub-areas~~-sub-area as containing image or text based at least in part on the chosen sub-area background color.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein identifying the individual ~~areas~~area as containing image or text includes identifying the individual ~~areas~~area as containing image or text based on bit depth distribution, the identified image ~~areas~~area containing an image, the area background color, and the document background color, the identified text areas containing text, the area background color, and the document background color.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein choosing an area background color includes choosing an area background color that is different than the document background color.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein choosing an area background color includes choosing an area background color that is the same as the document background color.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying an image area and a text area in an original document, the method comprising:

- choosing a document background color based on the original document;
- creating a condensed document from the original document by omitting areas that contain neither image nor text based at least in part on the chosen document background color;
- dividing the condensed document into a first area and a second area;
- detecting a first area background color of the first area;
- identifying the first area as the image area based at least in part on the detected first area background color, the first area containing at least an image and the first area background color;
- detecting a second area background color of the second area; and

identifying the second area as the text area based at least in part on the chosen
detected second area background color, the second area containing at
least text and the second area background color;
processing the image area with halftone processing; and
processing the text area with line art processing.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein dividing the condensed document includes dividing the condensed document transeversly transversely or vertically into the first area and the second area.

33. (Canceled)

34. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein outputting the processed images and processed text as a whole includes faxing the processed images and processed text.

35. (New) The method of claim 5, further comprising copying the master copy.

36. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising faxing the processed areas.

37. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising copying the document.

38. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising faxing the processed image area and the processed text area.

39. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising copying the original document.